

diffusion of the one or more sulfur halides into the body such that at least one effect selected from the group consisting of reducing the concentration of water and hydroxyl groups in the tube, reducing the size of at least a portion of refractory metal oxide particles in the tube, and reducing the concentration of refractory metal oxide particles in the tube, is achieved.

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~~66~~. The process of claim ³⁴~~65~~, wherein the temperature of treatment ranges from 600 to 700°C.

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~~67~~. The process of claim ³⁴~~65~~, wherein the time period is at least two hours.

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~~68~~. The process of claim ³⁴~~65~~, wherein the one or more sulfur halides comprises one or more sulfur chlorides.

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~~69~~. The process of claim ³⁷~~68~~, wherein the one or more sulfur chlorides comprise at least one compound selected from the group consisting of sulfur monochloride and sulfur dichloride.

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~~70~~. The process of claim ³⁴~~65~~, wherein the treatment reduces the size of at least a portion of refractory metal oxide particles in the tube, reduces the concentration of refractory metal oxide particles in the tube, or both reduces the size of at least a portion of refractory metal oxide particles in the body and reduces the concentration of refractory metal oxide particles in the tube.

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~~71~~. The process of claim ³⁴~~65~~, wherein the treatment reduces the concentration of water and hydroxyl groups in the body.